

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to recite that the tetrafluoroethylene polymer aqueous dispersion has a fluorine-containing surfactant of not higher than [1000] 50 ppm by mass. Claim 13 has been canceled. Support is found, for example, at page 27, lines 23-30 of the specification.

Withdrawn independent method claim 11 has been amended to include all of the limitations of product claim 1. If product claim 1 is found to be allowable, Applicants respectfully request rejoinder of withdrawn method claims 11 and 12 pursuant to MPEP § 821.04.

Review and reconsideration on the merits are requested.

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 950337892 A1 to Araki et al in view of Araki et al (WO 95-08598 A) in reference to its English language equivalent (US 5,925,705).

Applicants traverse, and respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider in view of the amendment to the claims and the following remarks.

The dispersion of claim 1 contains a tetrafluoroethylene polymer particle and has a fluorine-containing surfactant content of not higher than 50 ppm by mass. Further, the tetrafluoroethylene polymer has a tetrafluoroethylene unit content exceeding 40 mole percent.

WO '782 discloses a functional group-containing fluoroolefin. WO '782 does not disclose a tetrafluoroethylene polymer aqueous dispersion having a fluorine-containing surfactant content of not higher than 50 ppm by mass.

WO '598 discloses a vinylidene fluoride polymer dispersion containing not more than 1 wt% of a fluorine-containing surfactant. The lower limit is usually 0.01% wt (=100 ppm). See

col. 3, lines 36-45 of U.S. Patent No. 5,925,705. Namely, WO '598 does not disclose a dispersion having a fluorine-containing surfactant content of not higher than 50 ppm by mass as required by the amended claims.

Therefore, even if WO '598 and WO '782 are combined, one of ordinary skill in the art is not led to a tetrafluoroethylene dispersion having such a low fluorine-containing surfactant content of not more than 50 ppm.

Further, because neither of WO '782 and WO '598 discloses a tetrafluoroethylene dispersion having a fluorine-containing surfactant of not more than 50 ppm, there is no combination of the cited prior art which would meet the subject limitation. Moreover, because WO '598 instructs that the lower limit of the fluorine-containing surfactant is usually 0.01 % by weight (100 ppm), WO '598 does not lead one of ordinary skill to further reduce the fluorine-containing surfactant content to within the claimed range.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection, rejoinder of method claims 11 and 12, and allowance of claims 1, 3-8, 11 and 12 is earnestly solicited.

In the event that the Examiner believes that it may be helpful to advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number indicated below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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